# PRESS RELEASE

**Otsego County Soil & Water District Announces Conservation Mini-Grants**

Cooperstown, NY, February 12, 2023 -- The Otsego County Soil & Water District

(SWCD) announced today that it is now accepting applications for Conservation Mini-Grants for conservation related projects and programs conducted by educational institutions, not for profit organizations, and municipalities.

“We ran this mini-grant program once before, a couple of years ago, and it was very well received and successful,” said SWCD Board Chair Meg Kennedy. “We know there are lots of good ideas out there that just need a little extra help to get underway and that’s what we hope to provide,” she added.

A wide range of projects will be considered but they must be directed to conservation of natural resources in Otsego County. Examples include, among others, trail installation or improvement, trailhead kiosk, educational signage or brochures, native wildflower plantings, agricultural projects, habitat improvement, renewable energy planning or installation, GHG reduction, recycling center, and educational outreach.

Applicants should submit a brief (no more than two pages) description of the project or program for which they are seeking support including project or program goals, a budget, an explanation of how the program or project will achieve the goals, and a description of measurable outcomes. Mini-grant awards will be paid out as reimbursements for budgeted items of projects or programs completed within 18 months of award, after submission of a close-out report, itemized original invoices, and proofs of payment. **NO SALES TAX** is eligible for reimbursement due to New York State Law.

Applications are due no later than April 7. A total of $10,000 is available for this Mini-Grant program. Each successful applicant will receive up to $1,000. Award decisions will be made on April 8th. People with current 2023 Mini-Grants are highly encouraged to close them prior to applying for the 2024 round.

The Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 57 Conservation Districts in New York State. Conservation Districts are local governmental subdivisions established under state law to carry out programs for the conservation, use and development of soil, water, and related resources. Conservation Districts are resource management agencies, coordinating and implementing resource and environmental programs at the local level in cooperation with federal and state agencies.

For more information, please contact District Manager Christos Galanopoulos, Tel. no.:

607 547 8337 ext. 4, Email: galanopoulosc@otsegosoilandwater.com.